

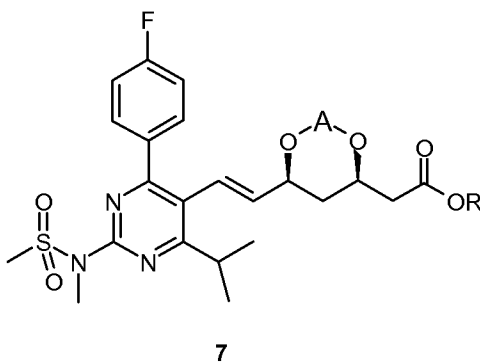
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

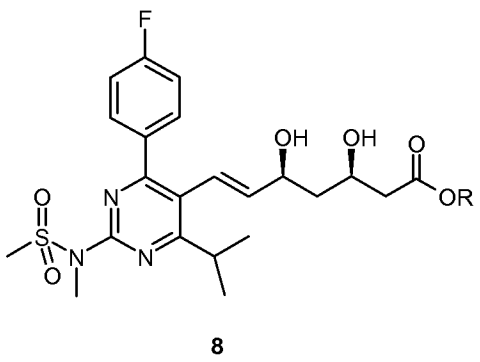
Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A process for the manufacture of the calcium salt of (*E*)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3*R*,5*S*)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid, comprising:

a) acid hydrolysis of an acetal protecting group in a compound of formula (7)

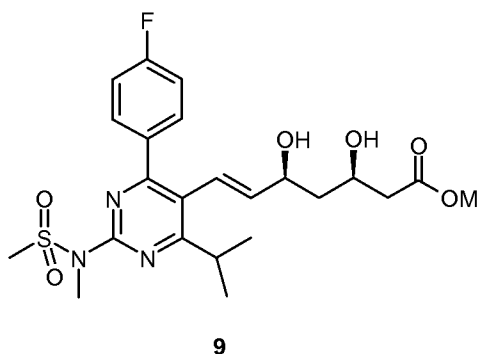


wherein A is an acetal or ketal protecting group and R is (2-6C)alkyl, and isolation of a resulting crystalline compound of formula (8)



b) optional recrystallisation of the compound of formula (8);

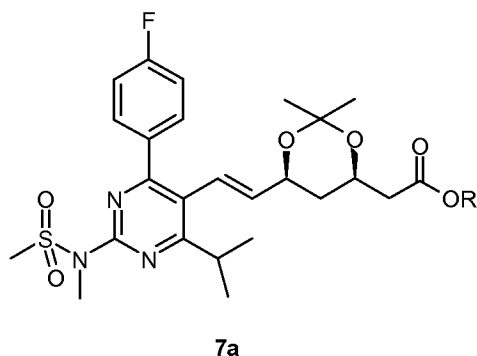
c) hydrolysis of the ester group in the compound of formula (8) to give a dihydroxy carboxylate derivative of formula (9), wherein M is hydrogen or a metal counterion other than calcium,



or the calcium salt of (*E*)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3*R*,5*S*)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid; and

d) conversion of the compound of formula (9), where present, into the calcium salt of (*E*)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3*R*,5*S*)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (7) is a compound of formula (7a).



Claim 3 (original): A process for the manufacture of the calcium salt of (*E*)-7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-isopropyl-2-[methyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]pyrimidin-5-yl](3*R*,5*S*)-3,5-dihydroxyhept-6-enoic acid, from a crystalline compound of formula (8) as claimed in steps c) and d) of Claim 1.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R is ethyl, iso-propyl, tert-butyl or hexyl.

Claim 5 (original): The process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R is ethyl, iso-propyl or tert-butyl.

Claims 6-20 (cancelled):